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**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy  
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**Subject:** Afternoon Pulse, presented by The Sierra Club: Shell wins approval for Arctic oil drilling - Patriot to sell mines to conservation group - Colorado's leaking mines

By Jennifer Shutt | 8/17/15 3:59 PM EDT

*With help from Alex Guillen*

**SHELL WINS APPROVAL FOR ARCTIC OIL DRILLING:** The Obama administration on today gave Shell the go-ahead to expand its multibillion-dollar attempt at Arctic offshore drilling, aggravating environmentalists just two weeks after the president basked in their praise for pushing an aggressive climate change plan. The expanded permits approved by the Interior Department allow Shell to tap into oil- and gas-bearing zones in Alaska's Chukchi Sea, a remote and challenging environment where green groups had fought hard to keep the company away from threatened walruses, polar bears and sea ice. Elana Schor has the story:

<http://politi.co/1TPNjWN>

**PATRIOT TO SELL MINES TO CONSERVATION GROUP:** Patriot Coal will sell the last of its mine assets to a nonprofit conservation company that plans to continue mining but will sell the coal along with carbon offset credits. The company would not immediately disclose the sale price. Patriot, which entered Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in May, plans to sell two mining complexes in West Virginia and some other mining permits to ERP Compliant Fuels, an affiliate of the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, a nascent nonprofit. <http://politico.pro/1UOKgeE>

**Welcome to Afternoon Energy.** I'm your host Jennifer Shutt. Send your energy news and tips to [jshutt@politico.com](mailto:jshutt@politico.com), [mdaily@politico.com](mailto:mdaily@politico.com) and [njuliano@politico.com](mailto:njuliano@politico.com), and keep up with us on Twitter at [@JenniferShutt](https://twitter.com/JenniferShutt), [@dailym1](https://twitter.com/dailym1), [@nickjuliano](https://twitter.com/nickjuliano), [@Morning\\_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy) and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

**MCCARTHY TOUTS PUSH TO END CRUDE OIL EXPORT BAN:** House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy on Monday highlighted the House's upcoming vote to remove the ban on crude oil exports. His support for removing the ban is not new, but adds to the momentum that jumped on Friday when the Obama administration announced it would allow some trading with Mexico. The California Republican quoted a Government Accountability Report, which said lifting the ban could reduce gas prices and boost employment. The House is expected to vote to lift the ban after it returns from its August recess. <http://1.usa.gov/1E0SSKW>

**-- Former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson also called for an end to the export ban,** the latest in a growing number of current and former officials to do so. Appearing today on CNBC's "Squawk Box" <http://bit.ly/1TMEZlj> the former Democratic governor of New Mexico called the ban a "relic of the '70s and '80s."

**FIORINA SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES ARE IDEOLOGICAL, NOT SCIENTIFIC:** Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina said on Monday that policies to curb climate change are sacrificing the coal and agriculture industries for political ideology, not

science. “All the scientists that tell us climate change is real and man-made, also tell us this: A single national acting alone will make no difference at all,” the Republican presidential hopeful said atop the soapbox at the Iowa State Fair. “We can destroy all these jobs in this nation, we can destroy industries of this nation at the altar of science; but here is the truth ladies and gentlemen, those livelihoods and those lives are being destroyed, not at the altar of science, but at the altar of ideology. This is about ideology. It's not about science.” <http://bit.ly/1UOW0Ob>

**\*\* A message from The Sierra Club:** Love Clean Air? You'll love the Clean Power Plan. Nearly 70 percent of Americans support it, and 8 million submitted favorable comments. We're going @BeyondCoal toward a clean energy economy that means cleaner air, healthier families, and new jobs. #ActOnClimate = #GoodForAmerica: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) \*\*

**FEDERAL AGENCY TO LAUNCH OIL FIELD SAFETY STUDY:** The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is set to launch a multistate, 500-person survey of oil and gas field safety next year. The largest investigation of its kind into the industry will look at the causes of workplace health problems, what contributes to on-the-job injuries and why accidents take place. Surveys will be handed out in North Dakota, Texas and a to-be-determined state. “This is a high-hazard industry, and different states have different levels of maturity when it comes to safety and health for this workforce,” said Kyla Retzer, an epidemiologist with the institute’s oil and gas program, according to the Center for Investigative Reporting’s Reveal website: <http://bit.ly/1fkOESD>

**CALIFORNIA GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE FAILS TO MEET EXPECTATIONS:** “Three years after California voters passed a ballot measure to raise taxes on corporations and generate clean energy jobs by funding energy-efficiency projects in schools, barely one-tenth of the promised jobs have been created, and the state has no comprehensive list to show how much work has been done or how much energy has been saved,” The Associated Press reports: <http://bit.ly/1LflPCA>

**COLORADO’S LEAKING MINES:** About 230 old Colorado mines are releasing heavy-metal-laced runoff into nearby waterways, contributing to the damage of 1,645 miles of rivers and streams, according to The Denver Post [<http://dpo.st/1UOeiz8>]. “These old mines have leaked so much for so long, thousands of gallons a minute, that state agencies don't track the combined toxic flow. But by the estimates at sites where the EPA has stepped in, the overall discharge equals at least one Gold King disaster every two days — spreading cadmium, copper, lead, arsenic, manganese, zinc and other contaminants.” In addition to the problems facing Colorado’s waterways, the EPA believes mine runoff has damaged “40 percent of the river headwaters in the West.”

**IRAN’S SUPREME LEADER: NUCLEAR DEAL’S FATE ‘NOT CLEAR’:** The fate of the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers is “not clear,” Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in remarks posted on his official website Monday, as reported by The Associated Press. “In their understanding of the deal, of which its fate is not clear since it is not clear if it will be approved here or there, their intention was to find a way to penetrate into the country,” he said in reference to the United States. Nick Gass reports: <http://politi.co/1No7Uwq>

**SPEED READ:** Don't want to pore over all 4,000-plus pages of climate regulations EPA released earlier this month? The Congressional Research Service has you covered with a 17-page summary of the Clean Power Plan (via the Federation of American Scientists): <http://bit.ly/1UPf0Mu>

### **QUICK HITS:**

-- "Developed nations are on track to cut their greenhouse emissions by almost 30 percent by 2030, Reuters calculations show, falling far short of a halving suggested by a U.N. panel of scientists as a fair share to limit climate change." <http://bit.ly/1K1Retw>

-- Here's where every single presidential candidate stands on Keystone — except Hillary Clinton. Grist: <http://bit.ly/1Jm6N0i>

-- Can John Kasich Find Sunlight On Clean Energy? National Journal: <http://bit.ly/1NATdEg>

-- Alaska's quest to power remote villages — and how it could spread clean energy worldwide. The Washington Post: <http://wapo.st/1TBwdfp>

### **WIDE WORLD OF POLITICS:**

-- Scott Walker struggles for the Iowa prize <http://politi.co/1MwVK1C>

-- Price for TSA's failed body scanners: \$160 million <http://politi.co/1MtIYD3>

-- Boxing out Biden <http://politi.co/1JcVzJO>

**\*\* A message from The Sierra Club:** Because families are demanding cleaner, healthier energy in their communities, over 200 coal plants have been replaced or phased out over the past 5 years as America moves @BeyondCoal. Now, thanks to the Clean Power Plan, the first-ever limits on dangerous carbon pollution are in place. The #CleanPowerPlan will save thousands of lives and billions in health costs while helping us move toward a healthy, thriving clean energy economy. Stand with the majority of the American public and stand up for #TheCleanPowerPlan.

#ActOnClimate = #GoodForAmerica: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) \*\*

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